

ABSTRACT

DISSERTATION: Binyang Li's Erhu Concerto *Totem*: An Edition for Violin

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This dissertation offers a violin and piano arrangement of Binyang Li's erhu concerto *Totem* and a recording of the arrangement. Because reductions of orchestral works often fail to capture the effect of the original work, high priority was placed on producing an arrangement that is musically faithful to the original. This document provides description and discussion of the transcription process, separated into three main sections: pre-planning, transcription goals, and transcription challenges. Li has become a famous composer in his native country China for the unique amalgamation of eastern and western music cultures in his works, as is evident in *Totem*. However, he remains unknown elsewhere in the world. This dissertation's completed transcription and recording may improve worldwide awareness of *Totem*, Li and his oeuvre, and possibly other works featuring traditional Chinese music and instruments.